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*Filix fragilis* (L.) Underw. Shasta Springs.

*Isoetes lacustris* L. Castle Lake.

FULLERTON, CAL.

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### Fern hunting in Florida, in the phosphate country.

M. A. NOBLE

In the gently rolling country lying to the south of Lake Tsala Apopka, for miles and miles, the only fern growing on the surface is the *Pteridium aquilinum* var. *caudatum*. The soil is classed as "rolling pineland" by the State Geological Survey, and it has considerable oak and other hardwood growth. Old settlers and native Floridians term it "Oak Ridges." For ten or fifteen miles south from the lake, this is the type of land, extending six or seven miles eastward to the rich "hammock" lands lying along the Withlacoochee River, and westward for a still further distance.

The region is honeycombed with prospect holes, dug by miners in search of phosphate of lime rock. Small holes appear everywhere at a distance of fifty feet apart. These holes measure a few inches across, and penetrate the earth from a few feet to thirty or even sixty. Not as frequent, but still quite numerous, are holes as wide as a common well, and of the same depth as the first-named. For the protection of stock, the law enjoins that these holes should be filled up, or covered. Small logs are usually laid across the top—a covering soon decayed, and more dangerous than the open well.

Down these well holes grow most tempting ferns, green and luxuriant on account of the dampness. Here are to be found *Polystichum acrostichoides*, *Asplenium parvulum*, *Woodwardia areolata* and *virginica*, *Dryopteris patens*, and occasionally, but very seldom, *Phlebodium aureum* and *Asplenium platyneuron*.

In some deserted pits, thirty or forty feet in depth, and irregular in outline, and an acre more or less in extent, may be found *Woodwardia areolata* and *virginica*, *Dryopteris patens*, and a few clumps of *Osmunda regalis*, with small clover-like fronds, growing in the crevices of the crumbling limestone cliffs.

In a digging along the railroad track, and in a washed-out ravine at one of the mines, *Dryopteris patens* has appeared, and grows vigorously. Both places are damp and well shaded. A miniature cave, a mile to the westward, is filled with a mass of the same fern. There appears to be a spring near for the rocks are always moist.

INVERNESS, FLA.

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### **Ophioglossum Engelmanni in Missouri.**

ERNEST J. PALMER

It was several years after I had begun collecting the ferns of Southwest Missouri, and particularly of my own county of Jasper, that I succeeded in adding Engelmann's adder's tongue to my list. Then I found a colony of it growing within half a mile of my home, an illustration of the fact that we frequently go far afield in our search for the strange and beautiful and overlook the wonders close at hand.

The station is at an altitude of about 1,100 feet, on a gently sloping hillside with north exposure, along a little branch near the town of Carterville, Missouri. On thin soil in irregularities of the Mississippian limestone, which here comes to the surface, a few xerophytic plants maintain a somewhat precarious existence amongst the common upland prairie species. The more characteristic of these are *Bouteloua curtipendula*, *Allionia albida*, *Tragia ramosa*, *Malvastrum angustum*, *Sedum*